

REMARKS

The holding of allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. Claim 4 has been amended to put it in independent form. Applicant respectfully submits that this does not change the scope of the claim.

Claim 1 has been amended to add the word “comprising.” This amendment is considered broadening.

Claim 1 has also been amended to change the paragraph structure and remove and unnecessary “and” and “with.” Applicants respectfully submit that this change does not affect the scope of the claim

Art rejections

The art rejections are respectfully traversed.

Any of the Examiner’s rejections and/or points of argument that are not addressed below would appear to be moot in view of the following. Nevertheless, Applicant reserves the right to respond to those rejections and arguments and to advance additional arguments at a later date. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner’s statements are conceded.

Claim 1 recites that “the cap forms part of the sleeve.”

The Examiner purports to find this in Maassen. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner mischaracterizes the reference. In the reference a cap is stuck on the end of a sleeve, but the cap does not form part of the sleeve.

The Examiner also purports to find this feature in the co-pending application. Applicant respectfully submits that the Examiner also mischaracterizes the co-pending application. In the

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co-pending application, the cap is locked to the sleeve with a locking element. The cap does not form part of the sleeve.

Applicant accordingly respectfully submits that the Examiner has failed to make a *prima facie* case against claim 1.

The new independent claims make this distinction even clearer by reciting that the sleeve and cap are formed from a single piece of material. Applicant accordingly respectfully submits that claims 7 and 15 are even more clearly patentable over the reference than claim 1. The new claims are also in more traditional US claim format, and eliminate some recitations that appear to be unnecessary.

The new dependent claims recite even more patentable features over the references. For instance, claims 13, 14, and 16 recite a coating on the single piece of material for achieving the screening and intercepting properties of the cap. Claims 8-12 and 17-19 recite features of a screening ring.

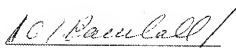
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Applicant respectfully submits that he has addressed each issue raised by the Examiner — except for any that were skipped as moot — and that the application is accordingly in condition for allowance. Allowance is therefore respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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